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report to the conference next year a plan of organization of an international arbitral tribunal.

A long and interesting discussion followed the reading of the paper, participated in by many eminent men. Some members thought the subject ought to be dropped, as it was not logical to institute a tribunal until a code of international law was adopted by which judges might be guided. Reply was made that in the history of the substitution of justice for force judges (arbiters) had preceded laws, and that if it were necessary to wait till an international code should be adopted even by a few powers before a tribunal should be established it would be impossible for a long time to come to reach any pacific solution of international conflicts. The commission of six was appointed and consisted of Mr. Hirsch from Germany, Mr. Houzeau de Lahaie from Belgium, Senator Trarieux from France, Mr. Stanhope from England, Dr. Rahusen, from Holland, Dr. Gobat, from Switzerland. The project to be submitted to the Conference next year will afterwards be presented to the European parliaments and governments.

Two resolutions, presented by Senator Trarieux of France and the Marquis Pandolfi of Italy, were adopted, one calling for a congress of the powers to consider the methods of arbitration which should be adopted, the other inviting the various groups of the Union to use their parliamentary influence to secure justice in the international administration especially of polyethnic states.

The protection of private property on the sea in time of war, treated of at Berne in 1892, was briefly considered and the groups which had not taken up the subject in their home parliaments were asked to do so without delay.

An admirable address to the press, drawn up by Senator Trarieux, was read and approved and ordered to be sent to the journals of Europe.

The Secretary of the Bureau of the Union, Dr. Gobat, made report to the Conference of the work of the Bureau during the past year. The journal, *La Conférence Interparlementaire*, a sixteen page monthly paper edited at Berne by Dr. Gobat, was recognized as the official organ of the Interparliamentary Union.

Brussels was chosen as the place of holding the next Conference.

Dr. Baumbach (Germany), Baron Pirquet (Austria), Houzeau de Lahaie (Belgium), Bajer (Denmark), Trarieux (France), Stanhope (Great Britain), de Pazmandy (Hungary), Marquis Pandolfi (Italy), Lund (Norway), Rahusen (Holland), de Paiva (Portugal), Urechia (Roumania), Wavrinsky (Sweden), and Gobat (Switzerland), were chosen members of the Bureau for the coming year.

The Conference which lasted for three days was closed by a banquet at Scheviningen on Thursday evening, Sept. 6th.

MAGAZINES AND PAPERS.

REVIEW OF REVIEWS.

The international advocates of peace have been holding their annual conferences. Nobody in Europe has done so much to give fresh impetus to the cause of peace as the Baroness von Sutner, the famous authoress of "Ground Arms." She was very prominent last month in the sessions of the peace Congress. It is humiliating, but it has to be confessed that it is Christian nations which have armed and drilled the Japanese and Chinese who are fighting in Corea. It is Christendom that is perfecting its instruments of slaughter, building pneumatic guns which will hurl heavy charges of dynamite a couple of miles, and that is perfecting the Maxim flying machine, which is to extend the area of slaughter,—already coterminous with earth and sea—to the air above. Even the Archbishop of Canterbury cannot be induced to raise his voice in favor of an arrest of any further increase of European armaments; and the prospect of arranging a Truce of God for the closing years of the century seems to be remote. Mankind with its brutal animalism, its bloodshot eye and hereditary savagery, seems destined to groan for some time longer under the burden of the prince of this world whose yoke is not easy, nor his burden light. Seven hundred and fifty million dollars per annum cash down for armaments is the fine that they pay for organizing Europe on the principle of Cain.

HERALD OF PEACE.

Count Kalnoky, Austrian Minister of State, in a speech, in September, on the state of Europe, said.—"It is an armed peace, and it will have to remain so for a long time yet, because sure guarantees for the preservation of peace must be forthcoming before the sword is laid aside. When the great expenditure for military purposes is complained of, and when one sees Peace Congresses working for the removal of the danger of war and the suspension of the huge armaments, it may, perhaps, be not out of place to remark here that the recurring alarms and disturbance of confidence in peace which lead to a continuation of the armaments are not due to the Governments. There is no Government in Europe which would not do its utmost, if fears of war arose, to dispel the uneasiness and remove the existing apprehensions. If we follow the matter up, we cannot conceal from ourselves, despite a high appreciation of the freedom of the press, that the sensational alarms of public opinion, based on quite unimportant events, are to be ascribed to the *daily press and its news service*, in which the nerves of the readers among the public, and even political and national passions, are worked upon in such a manner as often to produce violent currents of opinion, which the Governments have the utmost trouble to control. When Peace Congresses occupy themselves with the Peace question, I would strongly recommend them to devote their attention to this fact, and exercise a wholesome influence in this direction in all countries. There is no one here who does not know how nearly our most gracious Sovereign has domestic peace at heart, and how deeply desirous His Majesty is to promote peace at home, and, where it does not exist, to establish it."

THE (LONDON) ECHO.

"The International Arbitration and Peace Association of London has, with reference to the recent action of France in Madagascar, addressed a letter to its sister Society at Paris, inquiring whether it would not be possible to have the question of the true interpretation of the treaty of 1885 referred to arbitration. The difficulty which has arisen appears to turn mainly upon the meaning of that treaty and of certain subsidiary documents which the Hovas decline to ratify. It would certainly seem that points of dispute as to the interpretation of words in a treaty are, of all others, suitable for the impartial and unprejudiced judgment of arbitrators. Such difficulties involve no question of "honor" or prestige, and to them, therefore, the great principle of the peace-makers should be most easily applied.

The Association in question has also taken this opportunity of recording an opinion that it is highly improper that Englishmen, whether retired officers or civilians, should take service with the Hovas, under present circumstances. It is certainly a grave neglect of duty towards their own country, if not reprehensible on grounds of general principle, that Englishmen should, for their own gratification or advantage, do aught which may increase hostile feeling in France towards us. Such persons probably know nothing as to the merits of the dispute; and in any case such action on their part will only tend to occasion or prolong a disastrous conflict, in which the Hovas are sure to be defeated in the end. We trust that the report may turn out to be false, or that such acts may be those of two or three individuals at the most."—*Hodgson Pratt*.

UNION SIGNAL.

The decisions of courts of arbitration, while by no means universally satisfactory, have been on the whole reasonably fair and in the vast majority of cases both parties have preferred to acquiesce in the decision rather than to prolong a doubtful and costly strife. Public opinion also has acted as a powerful agent and is always in favor of acquiescence after both parties have been given an impartial hearing.

We do not believe that courts of arbitration are the final settlement of the labor problem, but we do believe that they are an invaluable if not indispensable means to that final settlement. The demand of workmen for higher wages or against reduction of wages in any specific case is only in another form the old historic cry of the Anglo-Saxon for "redress of grievances." But as a race we have learned well the lesson that mere temporary redress of grievances is of little worth. The next step has always been, must always be, if permanent results are to be achieved, to render further grievances impossible. Behind the grievance lies the cause of the grievance.

We need to emphasize more and more forcibly the doctrines of Peace and International Arbitration which form a fundamental part of our platform of principles; but we also need to aid, as never before, in bringing about the day when the nations of the earth shall value principles above power and shall count their greatest wealth in the prosperity and righteousness of their citizens.

PACIFIC BANNER.

The Department of Peace and Arbitration is making a vigorous effort to discountenance the Boys' Brigade, a military organization that is auxiliary to Sabbath Schools

of any denominations that wish to introduce it. The department considers it rather inconsistent for a Sabbath School to teach a boy from the decalogue that he must not kill, and then give him a toy sword and plan mock battles for him in which he may "make believe" kill his classmates. It would be about as sensible to erect a gallows in the churchyard and tell the children to play hang one another. Not only are the various peace societies, stopping the spread of the Boys' Brigade, but many of these juvenile military societies, which were formed to make the boys like the meek and lowly Jesus (who bade the apostle put up the sword into its sheath), are disbanding, either because the young soldiers have become quarrelsome in their organization, or because they thought they ought to be allowed to smoke and drink as real soldiers do. The United States government, by the way, allows its soldiers the use of narcotic and intoxicating drinks, and the only place in the State of Maine where lager beer can be legally sold is at the National Soldiers' Home, controlled by the United States government.

MESSIAH'S KINGDOM.

What does Christ think of War and our endless war preparations? With what feelings does He regard our Maxim guns, our torpedoes, and our battering rams? Does He like to see men devoting their skill and science to inventing new and deadly instruments for killing their fellow-men as fast as they can? Does it please him to watch our war manœuvres? To see what is going on in our great camps and forts and arsenals?

We have only to ask the question to be absolutely sure of the answer. We know in our hearts and consciences what He thinks. We can almost hear Him saying—

"I bless men and ye curse them,
I love them and ye hate,
Ye bite and tear each other,
I suffer long and wait."

We know that Christ is against war, and all that leads to war. He came, not to destroy, but to save—to save men from that want of love, love to God and to one another which is at the bottom of sin and misery—to save from the hatred which makes men fight and destroy one another and which must surely again and again have called forth the prayer of divinest pity—"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do!"

EVENTS OF THE MONTH.

The Upper House of the Hungarian Diet on the 5th. of October adopted by a majority of three a bill granting liberty of worship to all religious beliefs.

The English Government has sent two cruisers from the Mediterranean squadron and two gunboats from the East India squadron to China. Six thousand English troops have also been sent from India to China to protect the treaty ports.

During the month there has been great activity in politics in all the parties, preparatory to the approaching election. The leaders of all shades of political belief, Harrison, Reed, McKinley, Wilson, Russell, Hill, et al., have been constantly at their guns, and the rank and file of the parties have filled the land with their discussions. The prospects seem to be with the Republicans.